

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0029

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SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF PSI IN SICILY
SUMMARY - SICILIAN SOCIALISTS ARE MOVING ALONG THE MAINSTREAM OF PSI
NATIONAL POLICY. SOCIALIST AUTONOMY AND ACTIVISM ARE EXPECTED TO
INCREASE THROUGH THE NEXT POLITICAL ELECTION. THE DEMARTINIANI SHOULD

TRIUMPH IN THE SICILIAN PRE-CONGRESSES. END OF SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION WITH HIGH-RANKING MEMBER
OF THE PSI IN SICILY. PARTICIPANTS CLN AVV. ROCCO LO VERDE PRN
DEMARTINIANO PRN MEMBER OF THE PSI REGIONAL DIRECTORATE SEMI CLN
PARTY
ECONOMIC ADVISER SEMI CLN AND MICHELE CALDERONE, POLITICAL SPECIALIST,

AMCONGEN, PALERMO SEMI CLN HELD AT LO VERDE'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE,
JANUARY 9, 1976.

2. DE MARTINO'S VISIT TO THE U.S. CLN SICILY'S PSI LEADERS AND RANK

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AND FILE WOULD WELCOME GREATLY A VISIT OF COMRADE DE MARTINO TO THE
U.S. OBVIOUSLY, THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND THE PARTY CONGRESS WON'T
ALLOW DE MARTINO TO GO SOON. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PARTY IN SICILY
FEELS UNEASY ON ALLEGED U.S. INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

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BUT WHAT WORRIES THE SOCIALISTS MORE IS THAT SOME DC POLITICIANS MIGHT

BE CONVINCED TO STAY IN POWER FOLLOWING A FOREIGN-INSPIRED COUP D'ETAT.

3. THE SOCIALISTS AND THE PCI CLN A RECENT MANIFESTO CHARGING DC-MSI

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PCI PARLIAMENTARY COLLUSION ON THE ABORTION ISSUE REFLECTS A GENERAL ATTITUDE MEETING GROWING CONSENSUS AMONG PSI RANK AND FILE. THE SOCIALISTS ARE DISAPPOINTED MORE AND MORE OVER THE PCI'S STAND ON CIVIL RIGHTS. IN FACT, A DIFFUSED FEELING OF DISTRUST TOWARD THE PCI IS SPREADING. IT ORIGINATES FROM THE 1948 AND 1975 PCI-PSI COHABITATIONS, WHERE COLLABORATION LED TO RUDE AWAKENINGS FOR THE PSI.

THIS IS A TREND THAT MIGHT PRODUCE UNEXPECTED POLITICAL RESULTS FOR ITALY.

4. THE PSI NATIONAL CONGRESS CLN DE MARTINO OPENED THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS WITH AN EYE TO THE UPCOMING NATIONAL CONGRESSES OF BOTH THE PSI AND THE DC. THE CRISIS IMPACT ON THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS WILL BE ENORMOUS. THE SOCIALIST CHALLENGE WILL SERVE TO FORCE THE DC TO MAKE CLEAR CHOICES OR FAIL TO DO SO BEFORE THE PUBLIC'S EYE. MOREOVER,

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THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT DE MARTINO TOOK IN TRIGGERING THE CRISIS PRODUCED AN EXTRAORDINARY CLOSING OF THE PARTY'S RANKS AROUND HIM. UNLESS UNFORESEEN EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE MEANTIME, THE CONGRESS WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS FOR DE MARTINO.

5. PSI PRE-CONGRESSES IN SICILY CLN FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PARTY WILL PREPARE FOR THE FEBRUARY NATIONAL CONGRESS BY HOLDING PRE-CONGRESSES ONLY AT SECTION AND REGIONAL LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY. ONE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS WILL HOWEVER TAKE PLACE IN PALERMO TO APPOINT A NEW SECRETARY. EXCELLENT PROSPECTS IN SICILY FOR THE DEMARTINIANI, WHO ARE LIKELY TO CARRY 80 PER CENT OF THE PARTY COMPARED TO THE PRESENT 75 PER CENT. THE REMAINING 20 PER CENT WILL BE SHARED BY THE MINORITY FACTIONS. CHIAVARINI

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